



JOHNSONIAN NEWS LETTER

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Please notice the minor change of address on the masthead. The move of your editor from Barnard College to the Columbia graduate school, together with some totally unconnected attacks of grippe, will serve as some excuse for the lateness of this issue, which should have reached you long ago. Now full of good resolutions, we promise a more regular schedule in the future.

One other announcement — we have acquired an assistant editor, William Payne (C.C.N.Y.), who has kindly offered to help with the Work in Progress section of the *News Letter*. With his aid we hope to get in touch with every scholar working in the 18th century, and to list all research actively in progress. A card index file will be set up for the purpose of keeping a live list of projects. Help build up our file; and then use it.

18th Century Luncheon at Washington

As in the past, we are planning a luncheon to accompany the 18th century programs at the December meeting of the MLA. According to the schedule this year, Groups VII and VIII come Monday morning, December 30, and it is hoped that the luncheon can be arranged to follow at 12:45 that day.

George Winchester Stone, Jr., now returned to George Washington Univ. after three years in the Navy, has agreed to handle all local arrangements; and you will be notified by card of the exact details as soon as plans have been completed. Please send in your reservations to him. In this connection may we make one fervent plea: if you reserve a place for the luncheon and then later find that you will be unable to attend, please write or wire the men in charge at once. At the Chicago meeting many people made reservations and failed to appear at the last minute, with the result that the committee was put in a very difficult spot. Hotels and restaurants require definite guarantees as to the number who are to be served, and if the number falls far short, those in charge may be held responsible for an extra payment.

MLA Programs

Here are the programs for the group meetings in Washington, December 30:

Group English VII: The Classical Period — 9:15 A.M.

J. L. Clifford (Columbia), Chairman; Benjamin Boyce (Univ. of Nebraska), Secretary

Samuel H. Monk (Southwestern), "Dryden Studies since 1920: A Survey"

Ruth Wallerstein (Wis.), "To Mrs. Killigrew: the Perfecting of a Genre"

H. T. Swedenberg, Jr. (U.C.L.A.), "The William Andrews Clark Memorial Edition of Dryden"

Comments by James M. Osborn (Yale)

Group English VIII: Literary Tendencies during the Second Half of the XVIIIth Century — 11 A.M.

Arthur Friedman (Chicago), Chairman; Katherine Hornbeak (Smith), Secretary

Frances S. Miller (Univ. of Maine), "The Sofa in the Castle: the Historical Sense in English Historical Novels, 1760-1800"

Rufus D. S. Putney (Univ. of Iowa), "Yorick's Heart"

Lewis M. Knapp (Colo. College), "Below the Surface of Smollett"

These two programs — on Dryden and on the novel — should prove stimulating and valuable for all of you. We will hope to see you there.

Johnson Birthday Celebrations

On the evening of September 18th an enthusiastic group of Johnsonians, numbering over forty, gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hyde near Somerville, New Jersey, to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Johnson. It was an exciting occasion, in a house filled with 18th century atmosphere, evidenced in decoration, portraits, library, and Dr. Johnson's silver teapot resting in a conspicuous place of honor.

After a characteristic 18th century repast which included veal, mutton and turkey, followed by the traditional churchwarden pipes, came an evening of pleasant conversation, reminiscences of Johnsonian research, and perusal of the Hyde's splendid collection of rare books and manuscripts. To do further honor to Johnson and the occasion, the host presented each guest with a little booklet, printed especially by the Princeton University Press in a limited edition, and entitled *Benjamin Rush's Reminiscences of Boswell & Johnson* (Edited by Lyman H. Butterfield and designed by P. J. Conkwright, Jr.).

During the evening informal remarks were made to the group by Hyde, Charles Osgood of Princeton, Butterfield, and Col. Ralph Isham, who discussed some recent Boswell discoveries. A cable of greeting was received from Lord Harmsworth in London; and a formal message was read from the Lichfield Johnson Society. P. Laithwaite, Hon. Secretary of the Lichfield Society, was even moved to include some original verses:

Where ADAM delved and NEWTON sought,
 Where ISHAM found and POTTLE wrought,
 See HYDE and ——— take the field
 And reverent oblation yield
 To SAM, whose name, nor time nor place
 May keep in bounds nor e'er efface.
 Then let us, in our fateful years,
 Our fearful hopes, our anxious cares,
 Pray Heaven infuse from his store immense
 A mède of JOHNSON'S COMMON SENSE.

All in all, it was "a dinner to ask a man to" — a memorable occasion!

At Lichfield, England, the annual celebration was held this year on Saturday, Sept. 21st. There was the usual procession and laying of the wreath on the statue of Johnson, followed by the supper at the Guildhall in the evening. The Mayor presided, supported by the Sheriff and the President of the Johnson Society, Commander R. T. Gould. Any of our members who has been privileged in the past to attend one of these September Lichfield celebrations will know what a delightful affair it must have been.

A Proposal

C. A. Miller, General Counsel of the American Short Line Railroad Ass'n, in Washington, D.C., writes: "The recent celebration of the 237th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Johnson leads me to propose, for consideration of yourself and other Johnsonians, the formation of 'The Samuel Johnson Society of America,' with two main objectives: First, the perpetuation of the good works and great ideals of Doctor Johnson, socially and otherwise, and, secondly, the collection, in one place, of a copy of everything relating to the so-called 'Age of Johnson.'"

Miller goes on to suggest that the *JNL* be made the official organ of the society, and that your editor be the active entrepreneur to make the first moves in organization. What do you think? Shall we

go ahead with a formal organization, with by-laws and constitution, membership cards, and all the paraphernalia of the usual "society"? Do we wish to add another to the already huge list of library clubs? Or ought we rather gather together an informal group of Johnson enthusiasts, who may wish to meet occasionally to celebrate some anniversary, but who will not wish to go through any mechanical claptrap of formal organization? Let us know your preferences. How can we best celebrate Johnson without too much pomp and formality?

News from England

Winston White (Western Reserve) sends on information about the effects of the blitz to Horace Walpole's "Strawberry Hill," now St. Mary's Training College, at Twickenham. Fortunately the building was hit by incendiaries only and not by high explosives, and the wing which was added during the nineteenth century suffered most of the damage. The ceiling of the Great Gallery, a reproduction of that in the Henry the Seventh chapel in Westminster Abbey, received one small burn but is otherwise undamaged.

L. F. Powell writes from Oxford suggesting that we call the attention of our readers to the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* (Vol. XI, Part 4), which this time is dedicated to Sir William Jones, whose bicentenary falls in 1946. Powell has himself in this issue an article entitled "Sir William Jones and the Club" in which he gathers together what is known about Jones's activities in what we usually think of as Johnson's Club. Another article by Powell which many of you will wish to be on the lookout for is concerned with Boswell's anonymous designations. It will appear in the forthcoming *Transactions of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society*.

The autumn program of papers for the Johnson Society of London is as follows: Oct. 19, "Topham Beauclerk" by Dorothy M. Stuart; Nov. 16, "Tristram Shandy, Laurence Sterne's Triumvirate" by W. H. Graham; Dec. 21, "Caroline Herschel, Astronomer" by Mr. T. Roscoe.

The July issue (No. 9) of the *New Rambler* has reached us, filled as usual with interesting short comments and essays on Johnsonian topics. We pass on one question for you to mull over: "Johnson's cat Hodge is known all over the world and figures in one of the most charming passages in the *Life*. An eminent Johnsonian scholar is understood to have traced the name of another of Johnson's cats,

but will not disclose it, merely telling enquirers to study the *Life* carefully and they will find the clue. Can any reader give the name of this second cat or venture a suggestion"?

We are delighted to see Geoffrey Tillotson's essay "The Moral Poetry of Pope," which was the Robert Spence Watson Memorial Lecture for 1945, delivered before the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle upon Tyne. It is published by the society.

A Biography of the Youthful Johnson

As Part X of his indispensable *Johnsonian Gleanings*, A. L. Reade (Treleven House, Blundellsands, Liverpool 23, England) is now bringing out a popular summary of all his work so far. As Reade himself puts it, "The object of Part X is to gather together the whole results of my researches, so far as they help to illustrate Johnson's early life down to 1740, and incorporate them with the known biographical material to form a simple narrative with all the machinery of research removed from view. It will be of interest therefore not merely to those enthusiasts who have supported me throughout my long task of winning fresh information from a multitude of obscure and scattered records, but also to a much wider circle who have neither the appetite for detailed enquiry nor place on their shelves for ten volumes where one will suffice their purpose."

If you wish to secure a copy of this valuable summary of what is known of Johnson's early life, write direct to Reade at the above address. As with the previous parts, Reade is publishing the volume himself. The price to subscribers *before issue* is twenty-one shillings.

Teerink's Edition of the John Bull Pamphlets

In our last issue, through an unfortunate misunderstanding, we announced that some copies of H. Teerink's bibliography of Swift were still available. Unfortunately this is not correct; the work is completely sold out. On the other hand, Teerink does have left about thirty copies of his edition of the *History of John Bull*, published in 1925. These he would be pleased to sell at \$3.00 a copy.

If any of our readers would like to have a copy of this edition of the John Bull pamphlets, the procedure will be as follows: first, write to Teerink at his address, 4 Hoofdstraat, Velp (Geld), The Netherlands, placing your order; second, when the copy is

received send your \$3.00 to the *Johnsonian News Letter*. The money thus collected will be used to purchase in this country books desired by Teerink, and in this way the problems of currency restrictions will be avoided.

James Beattie's London Diary

The first complete printing of James Beattie's 1773 diary, in which he minutely describes his London visit of that year, has just reached us. Edited by Ralph S. Walker, it is printed by the Aberdeen University Press, and sells for 12/6. Many of our readers, we feel sure, will wish to own a copy.

Beattie's diary has often been culled for information in the past — chiefly by Beattie's biographers — but still there remains much of interest which has not hitherto been made available. To be sure, most of the entries have to do with mere social gossip, lists of his engagements, and casual comments, but the regular entries are of great value to us as a chronological record of the period, as well as a picture of the literary circle in London. Scholars will also welcome the account which is included in the Preface of the whole Beattie collection of manuscripts in the University Library at Kings College, Aberdeen.

Work in Progress

General

BRONSON, B. H. (Univ. of Cal.). *The Child Ballad Tunes*.

CLAPP, Sarah L. C. (Louisiana, NSC). *Developments in Subscription Publication Subsequent to 1688*.

-----, *The Publishing House of Tonson, c. 1675-1770*.

DAVY, Francis (Manhattan). *Lucretius and the English Augustans*. D. (Columbia).

DAWSON, Giles E. (Folger Shakespeare Library). *Bibliography of Shakespeare's Works and Separate Plays, 1709-1865*.

HANDLEY, Flora Marie (431 Riverside Dr., N.Y. City). *The Concept of Genius in 18th Century England*. D. (Columbia).

HOOKE, E. N. (Univ. of Cal.). *The Other English Malady: Essays on the Spirit of Mirth and Ridicule in Augustan England*.

-----, *History of English Literary Theory and Criticism, 1660-1750*.

HOPKINS, Mary Alden (RFD 1, Bethel, Conn.). *A Study of the Social, Scientific, and Musical Activities of the Litchfield Circle, 1770-1800*.

KIRBY, Paul (Columbia). *The Early Italian Satirists and the Queen Anne Writers*. D. (Columbia).

STEWART, J. Keith (Princeton). *The Relationship of Ballad Criticism and the Ballad Revival of the Eighteenth Century to Contemporary Critical Thought*. D. (Princeton).

STONE, George Winchester (Geo. Wash. Univ.), with W. B. Van Lennep (Harvard). *Revision of Genest's History of the Stage, 1660-1800*.

Boswell, James

MILLER, C. A. (Tower Building, Washington 5, D.C.). *James Boswell: Scots Lawyer*. (In the early research stage.)

Defoe, Daniel

HEALEY, George Harris (Cornell). *An Edition of the Letters of Daniel Defoe*. ("I'd be glad to hear of the whereabouts of any Defoe letters.")

Dryden, John

HOOKE, E. H., Swedenberg, H. T., Hustvedt, S., etc. (U.C.L.A.). *An Edition of Dryden's Works*.

-----, *The Purpose of Dryden's "Annus Mirabilis"*. To appear in the *Huntington Library Quarterly*.

RUSSELL, Doris (Vassar). *Contemporary Reactions to Dryden*. D. (Columbia).

Fielding, Henry

JENSEN, Gerard E. (Connecticut Coll.), and WORK, James A. (Stanford). *A Definitive Edition of Tom Jones, with collated text, biographical and critical introduction, and explanatory and textual notes*.

Garrick, David

STONE, George Winchester (Geo. Wash. Univ.). *Studies Concerning Garrick and Shakespeare*.

Glover, Richard

WATSON, Eugene P. (Louisiana NSC). *The Digressions in Richard Glover's "Leonidas"*. Particularly as the digressions are thrusts at Walpole. D. (Univ. of Texas).

Hayley, William

WOODWORTH, Mary Katharine (Bryn Mawr). *A Critical Biography of William Hayley*.

Johnson, Samuel

BURCKHARDT, Sigurd (Univ. of Cal.). *Johnson's Political and Religious Philosophy*. D. (Univ. of Cal.).

EASTMAN, Arthur M. (Univ. of New Hampshire). *Johnson's Edition of Shakespeare: 1765*. D. (Yale).

MILLER, C. A. (Tower Building, Washington 5, D.C.). *Anecdotes of The Literary Club*.

-----, *Dr. Johnson and Tea*, an essay.

-----, *Wisely Was It Said by Samuel Johnson*. An Anthology of 2,682 of Johnson's sayings, catalogued under 1,250 subject heads; and alphabetically arranged for use. With a short biographical essay on Johnson. (Awaiting publication.)

Mandeville, Bernard

GIBSON, Daniel (Franklin and Marshall). *A Study of Bernard Mandeville*.

Mist, Nathaniel

Limaube, A. Sanford (Duke). *A Literary History of Nathaniel Mist's Weekly Journal*. D.

More, Hannah

HOPKINS, Mary Alden (RFD 1, Bethel, Conn.). *An Edition of the Unpublished Correspondence of Hannah More and Mrs. David Garrick*.

Oldmixon, John

HOOKE, E. N. (Univ. of Cal.). *An Essay on John Oldmixon as a Critic*. This will probably accompany a reprint of Oldmixon's "Essay on Criticism."

Pope, Alexander

HELM, Ferdinand (Columbia). *Pope's Imagery*. D. (Columbia).

NORRIS, Faith G. (Univ. of Cal.). *A Study, Chronological and Analytical, of Pope's Reputation as a Poet from His Day to the Present*. D. (Univ. of Cal.).

SIBLEY, Agnes (Lindenwood). *Pope in America*. D. (Columbia).

Spence, Joseph

WRIGHT, Austin (Carnegie Tech). *A Critical Biography of Joseph Spence*. (In progress, and "emerging into the clearing.")

Steele, Richard

LOFTIS, John (Princeton). *The Minor Journals of Richard Steele, with Particular Attention to His Career as Stage Manager*. D. (Princeton).

Sterne, Laurence

DILWORTH, Earnest N. (Princeton). *The Unsentimental Journey of Laurence Sterne*. D. (Columbia).

WORK, James A. (Stanford). *The Intellectual and Literary Background of Laurence Sterne.*

Swift, Jonathan

JOHNSON, Maurice (Columbia). *Swift's Poetry: a Critical Study.* D. (Columbia).

STARKMAN, Miriam (Queens). *The Tale of a Tub in Its Historical Setting.* D. (Columbia).

Personal Notes

It is pleasant to be able to report that D. Nichol Smith and Mrs. Nichol Smith are in this country, at Smith College for the autumn term. F. P. Wilson has succeeded Nichol Smith in his professorship at Oxford.

Emile Pons is now at the Sorbonne. May we express our hope that now that the war is over we may have the next volume of his life of Swift.

Philip Gove, now out of the Navy, has taken a position as Ass't Editor at the G.&C. Merriam Co., in Springfield, Mass.

S. N. Bogorad has moved from Northwestern to the Univ. of Vermont; Benajmin Boyce from Omaha to the Univ. of Nebraska; Arthur M. Coon from Akron to Sampson College; T. C. D. Eaves from Rutgers to William and Mary; Robert T. Fitzhugh from Maryland to Lehigh; Kenneth Longsdorf from CCNY to Franklin and Marshall; Ruth Lowery from Maryville, Mo. to Washburn Municipal Univ., Topeka, Kansas.

You may be interested to know that the sketch of Johnson on our masthead was done by the artist Paul McPharlin — one-time Columbia student, who took English under John Erskine.

Some Recent Books

During the past few months many important books concerned with our period have appeared. We venture to mention a few.

Before reading Marjorie Nicolson's *Newton Demands the Muse* not many of you, we suspect, were aware of the great influence of Newton's *Opticks* on the poetic imagery in the 18th century. This is a model of what a study in ideas should be.

The volume of Bishop Percy's correspondence with Richard Farmer, edited by Cleanth Brooks, carries on the high standard of printing and annotation established by the first volume of the L. S. U. Percy edition.

Mark Schorer's *William Blake the Politics of Vision* is a book every Blake enthusiast will want.

For students of the drama there are Jeremy Bagster-Collins' *George Colman the Younger*; and the two books on Arthur Murphy (mentioned in our last issue) by Howard Dunbar and J. P. Emery.

Johnsonians may find serious and light fare in W. T. Cairns' *The Religion of Dr. Johnson and Other Studies* (which brings up again the old controversy of Johnson's supposed evangelical interest in his last hours) and in Lillian de la Torre's *Dr. Sam: Johnson, Detector*, her collection into book form of the stories originally printed in the *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, together with a number hitherto unpublished (we still like the episode of Monboddos Ape Boy the best). D. T. Starnes and Gertrude E. Noyes' *The English Dictionary from Caudrey to Johnson, 1604-1755*, is important for any true understanding of the background of Johnson's *Dictionary*.

Claude Jones's edition of the *Isaac Reed Diaries, 1762-1804* (Pub. in English, Univ. of Cal.) contains a great deal of information, some of it new, about the Johnsonian period. More about this later.

Walter J. Bate's excellent study *From Classic to Romantic* contains one chapter on "Johnson and Reynolds The Premise of General Nature" which should be a "must" on the reading list of all Johnsonians.

A new biography of Hannah More by Mary Alden Hopkins has been announced for publication by Longmans, Green this month.

A Potpourri of Articles

By way of reminder here are some recent articles: J. H. Warner, "The Macaroni Parson," *Queens Quarterly*, Spring, 1946 (an essay on Dr. Dodd and Johnson's aid to him); Helene Maxwell Hooker, "Dryden's *Georgics* and English Predecessors," *Huntington Library Quarterly*, May, 1946; Fredelle Bruser, "Disproportion: a Study in the Work of John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester," *Univ. of Toronto Quarterly*, July, 1946 (a rather thorough analysis of his verses); H. V. F. Somerset, "Edmund Burke as a Letter Writer," *Nineteenth Century*, August, 1946 (some short selections from unprinted letters of Burke); G. W. Keeton, "The English Gentleman of the Eighteenth Century," *Fortnightly*, August, 1946; Arthur Friedman, "Goldsmith's Contributions to the *Critical Review*," *Modern Philology*, August, 1946; David E. Lewis, "A Quarrelsome Romance of the Eighteenth Century," *Dalhousie Review*, July, 1946 (This appears to your editor to be a very bad article, full of typical popular distortion — calling Pope "hideously deformed" and stressing Lady Mary's great beauty. This is the sort of thing which will make scholars foam at the mouth.).

The entire October issue of the *Journal of the History of Ideas* is devoted to Leibniz. In the Sept. *English Literary History* there

were four articles to be listed: W. R. Irwin, "Satire and Comedy in the Works of Henry Fielding"; Charlotte E. Crawford, "What Was Pope's Debt to Edward Young?" M. R. Watson, "The *Spectator* Tradition and the Development of the Familiar Essay"; W. Van Lennep, "The Smock Alley Players of Dublin."

Your editor would like to know what you think about the inclusion in these pages of random lists of new books and articles. How useful are these lists to you? Would you prefer to have the space used for other matters? Let us hear from you.

A Query

L. H. Butterfield (Jefferson Edition, Princeton Univ. Library) sends in the following:

I am anxious to establish that an edition of Johnson's *Works*, for which a prospectus was issued by Humphreys, a Philadelphia printer, in 1811, was or was not published. It was to be edited by the Reverend James Abercrombie, whom I am investigating because he was an early and ardent American admirer of Johnson and a correspondent of Boswell. None of the bibliographical works list such an edition, but, not satisfied with this negative evidence, I should like to inquire whether anyone you know has made a careful study of American editions of Dr. Johnson.

Johnsonian Apocrypha

T. O. Mabbott (Hunter) sends in the following anecdote, the source of which he would like to know: When about to write the Life of Akenside, Johnson consulted Hannah More, who had a mutual friend of Akenside in Stonehouse. The lady began to recount some sayings of the versifying medico. Johnson interrupted her with "Incident, Madam, incident is what the biographer wants. Did he break his leg?"

And what about this one which has all the ring of the typical story told about any well-known moralist? Johnson is supposed to have been in a museum, when a lady remarked, "Isn't that nude statue indecent?" Johnson: "No, Madam, but your mind is!"

A Note

Because of lack of space a number of interesting contributions recently sent in must wait over until the next issue.

